

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above preliminary amendment. By this preliminary amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 17-22, 24, 26-31, 33, 35-38 and 40-44.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: February 24, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 2-24-04 By: Jonathan O. Owens